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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gutierrez says the time for comprehensive immigration reform is now

(Washington, DC) Today, Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez voted "yes" on an historic piece of health care reform legislation that makes coverage more accessible and affordable, reduces overall costs, stops the practice of denying coverage for preexisting conditions and strengthens Medicare for the future.

"I had many concerns about voting for the Senate passed healthcare bill. In particular, I remain opposed to a provision that will not allow undocumented immigrants to use their own money to buy health insurance in the exchanges. I believe this is counter to public health and to justice.

After many conversations with the President, I feel confident that he understands that germs don't respond to borders, germs respond to medicine and good preventative care. I believe he agrees that in order for health care reform to work, we need to enact comprehensive immigration reform legislation to ensure that everyone has access to coverage and preventative care.

I am pleased that my conversations with the President were productive and, as the 100,000 people who marched for comprehensive immigration reform today will tell you, the time for comprehensive immigration reform is now. Until we address the injustice of our immigration laws, families will continue to be torn apart, workers will continue to be exploited, and 12 million undocumented individuals will continue living in the shadows."

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